Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE
VIRGINIA MAGAZINE
OF
HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY.

VOL. XXIV. JUNE, 1916. No. 3

LETTERS OF WILLIAM BYRD, FIRST.

[Many years ago a letter book of William Byrd, first of that family in Virginia, was presented to this Society. Thirty-two of the letters were printed in the Va. Historical Register I, 60-66, 114-119; II, 78-83, 203-209; but the selections seem to have been made with no especial reason. The numerous unpublished letters throw light on trade between England and Virginia and conditions in the Colony as it has been determined to print them. The writer needs only a brief notice here. He came to Va. as a young man to inherit the very considerable landed estate of his maternal uncle, Thomas Stegg, who was Auditor General of Virginia 1664-70. Wm. Byrd lived first at Belvidere on the present site of Richmond and near the close of hsi life bought "Westover." He was an extensive planter, trader in tobacco, furs, etc., owned stores in Virginia and was interested in the Indian trade and in exploration of the West. He was a member of the House of Burgesses and Council and was Auditor and Receiver General of Va. 1687-1704. He married Mary, daughter of Warham Horsmanden, a Royalist refugee. His son William was educated in England, and the daughter Ursula or Nutty (as was his pet name for her, doubtless on account of her complection) was also sent to England.

On her return she married Robert Beverley, the historian. The will of Thos. Grendon (referred to in several letters) is in Waters' **Gleanings,** 429-431].

To Mr. North.

Virg'a ffeb'ry the 25, 1683.

Sr

Yors by Ruds & Wynne lately came to my hands with most of the Goods you Sent mee by the latter, but have not yet opened any, being but last night return'd from Gloster where I have been to wait on our new Governr & where Pate & my Selfe did not forgett yors & Dick Johnsons good health. I wrote to you formerly by Paggen by whom I sent you fiftyHds. Tobo. w:h I hope ere this time is come Safe to your hands. I have now nothing to adde, but could not misse this oppertunity by So good a Conveyance as my Coz. Grendon by whom have Sent a small token to be spent amongst our friends. Yors is not yet come to hand, but care is taken for it, our onely misfortune is my Coz. Tom will loose his Share of it.

You shall hear farther by Wynne, who I believe (if any) will get his Ladeing though at low rates, by him I shall send you Some Tobacco & I hope other goods. Mine & my wives best respects & Service to yor Selfe & Lady from

Sr

Yor humble Servant

Will. Byrd.

To Mr North pr Culpeper.

To Mr. Coe.

Virg'a ffeb'ry the 25, 1683.

Dear Sr

Yors by Capt Ruds & Wynne lately recd, as allso what things sent to my wife w:h I suppose shee hath given yor Lady an accot of & wee must ever acknowledge our Selves infinitely oblidged to you both, for your many favors both to us & ours, & wish it lay in my power any way to testify my acknowledgemts of yor kindnesses; this I hope will come Safe to you by my Coz. Tom by whom I have Sent a Small token to bee Shared

amongst our friends. I give you thanks for yo^{rs} though not yet come to hand, but care is taken for it, & though Coz'n Grendon will not tast it, wee shall not faile to drink yor & his good health with it at Capt Randolphs, where wee Order^{d} it to been put on Shoar. Pray give my best respected & Service to all where its due, Especially to yor Lady & accept the Same yor Selfe from Dear S^{r}.

Yo^{r} oblidg'd fe^{d} & Servant
W. B.

To Mr Coe p^{r} Culpeper.

To Mr. Gower.

Virg'a ffeb'ry 26th 1683.

S^{r}

I rec^{d} one from you this year p^{r} Capt Bradly, wherein you promise mee I shall hear more at large by Wynne, & tell mee of roots & seeds, but Wunne being arrived, I cannot hear of so much as a letter from you w:^{h} would make mee doubt yor wellfare, did not others tell me that all our friends were well, in w:^{h} catalogue, you ever had our Especiall place, in my Esteem & therefore I could not but Salute you with a line or two by so good a friend as brings this, to assure you I shall ever acknowledge the many favo^{rs} I have So frequently rec^{d} from you; Wee Seldome meet but remember yor good health; & Shall Suddenly when wee dispose of yor kind token, w:^{h} I doubt not but you have a share in. All our friends here in health & give you their best respects & Service, pray present mine to all at yor House, & elsewhere its due, assureing you I shall ever remain

Yo^{r} Oblidg's fr^{d} & Servt.
W. B.

P. S. I wrote last year 2 letters to my bro. Robinson, Sister Rich^{ds} & Godmother but have not had one tittle from any of y'm this year.

To Mr Gower in ye Culpeper.

To Perry and Lane.

Virginia. ffeb'y 26th. 1683.

Gent.

I wrote to you yesterday pr the Culpeper & have little now to adde, this Serveing only to accompany Capt Bradly with 101 Hds Tobo. as pr bill of Ladeing & Invoice inclosed will appear P the next I hope to Send you some ffurres, shall not trouble you farther at present, but take Leave

Gent

Yor wall frd & Servt

W. B.

To mr Perry & Lane P Bradly.

To Perry and Lane.

James City in Virga. Apr'll ye 25th 1684.

Gent

My last to you by the Culpeper & Bradly I hope ere this are Safely come to yor Hands with what I sent therewith, have little now to adde onely acquaint you with our wellfare, I could have wishd you had been more particular in yor letters of ye markett of furrs & Skins, I haeing ingaged for a considerable quantity before my rect of yor last at I fear too great a price. You shall (god willing) receive some by Capt Tibbett who Saith hee shall Saile about the 20th of next month. I have had many complaints about my stockings this year as allso of Hats, threds & Some of ye Linnen iron worke & nails ye worst ever saw, which I hope will hereafter bee mended.

Wee are in likelyhood of forward Crops this year, & dout not God saying amen, to bee as forward as any of ye Marylanders. I have inclosed Sent for some additional things w:h were bespoke Since my last, w:h pray lett mee have as soon as may bee, & let mee not faile of all my Indian Trucke betimes, the want of Beads, or Some other trifles being oftentimes a great prejudice, shall not trouble you farther, but acquaint you I have charged bills of Exed to mr Peter Perry on you for

56£.19s.02d., allso some others w:h please to pay accordingly, I must confesse I was Surprized to find my Selfe So far behind Expectation but hope for better times; w:h that we may all find is the hearty desire of

Gent

Yor reall friend & Servant

What you wrote about English Servants I had anticipated by the Culpeper, & therefore shall say no more of it, for ye negro's (if they come), I shall take some if they prove well.

To mr Perry & Lane P Tailor.

To Mr. North.

James City in Virga. Apr'll ye 26th 1684

My last to you was by my Coz. Grendon, w:h I hope with him came safe to you, Since w:h have little to adde, onely I have recd yors by Colo. Ludwell & Prim, allso all those goods you Sent mee by Wynne & can find no fault with them, onely I find many things as Duffeilds Cotton, Brandy, nails &c much dearer than I paid p L, but the different Seasons they were bought in may bee some reason for it. ye french Hats I sent for extraordinary for my Selfe, were worse than those I had from others for the Store. In closed I have sent a note for some Indian Goods, that you may take the advantage of a more timely market, & designe to send for some English goods by Wynne, by whom & designe you about 90 Hds of Tobo. & other Goods. hee reckons to saile about the last of next Moneth, by whom I shall write more at large. My Service to all our friends, & accept the Same yor selfe from

Sr

Yor friend & Servant

W. B.

I have charged a bill of Exchange on you payable to Jno. Herbert for 25£. 16s.0d. & inclosed sent you one of my Coz. Grendons for 34£.0s.0d.

To Mr North P. Zach Tailor.

To Thomas Byrd.

Virginia May 20 '84.

Dear Bro.

I was glad by yor letter to hear of yor wellfare as allso of all our friends. My wife & little ones are very well & desire to bee remembered to you, pray give my best respects to yor Master, & remember mee to my Bro. & Sister Robinson & Sister Richards & tell them I take it very unkindly that (though Iwrote twice to each of them last year) I have not recd one line from Either of them this year. Pray remember mee to my Grand Mother; I shall not doubt yor diligence to improve yor time. Assuring you none more desires yor benefit then

Yo^{r} affectionate Bro

To T B p Wynne

To Perry and Lane.

Virginia May the 20th 1684.

Gen^{t}

This accompany Capt Wynne with four Hds of ffurres as p bill of Ladeing & Invoice inclosed may appear. Capt Tibbett promised mee to fetch them, but I hear he designes to excuse it, wherefore I was forced to persuade Wynne to take them in; There is little of news the Assembly not yett broke up; great likelyhood of forward Crops being abundance of raine lately. Wee are in great anxiety for ye Quaker Ketch, & very desirous to hear where abt the market may bee, I hope the Dolphin got well home, though here is a report of a very hard winter you have had in England; with a continued E wind for many weeks. I shall not trouble you farther at prsent but with best respects & Service take leave

Gent

Yo^{t} reall friend & Servt

W. B.

Since my last to you I have charged 36£ to m^{r} Hartwell 5£0s.0d. money to m^{r} Place & 8 to Ben Harrison, pay pass accordingly.

To m^{r} P by Wynne.

TO PERRY AND LANE.

Virga. Hb^{r} the 30th 1784.

Gen^{t}

I wrote to you lately by a Yorke Ship, & hopec then Capt Hall would have been ready to have Saild with this, & so might have been, had others indeavor'd his dispatch as I have done, haveing now 81 Hds on board, when Shee will Saile I know nott, but Shall Ship no more on board her this year, hope others will make it up. Shee had a tedious passage heither, & by all report is no runner, Capt Hall thinks if shee were lengthned, the increase of her Burthen would soon answer the Charge, & shee would Saile much better, but that shall leave wholly to yor discretion, I could have wished wee had bought or built a new one, rather then to have been at so much charge with this w:^{h} had like to have ruined us, Butt of this too much: What you propose as touching the Cargoe sent P Dolphin, I am willing to goe my part (of whatsoever on her Acco^{t}) proportionable to my part of the ship; What you mentioned about the Pinke for the Barbados have answered in my last & Shall expect her, else shall provide other way's, Wee here desire not to be Concern'd w:^{h} too many, & therefore if wee find her Concern'd all over the River, wee shall have nothing to doe wth her; for the Cargoe P Hall, I find itt reasonably well, onely Cottons, w:^{h} you say are Cheaper & better, I find much dearer, as formerly, you sent y'm at 16½d. p Goad, you now Charge 20d. & not onely so but have (by mistake I suppose) Charged mee just ten pounds too much in that Article in yor Invoice Viz^{t}.

422½ Goads of Cotton Chargd—	45l:4s:02d at 20d. P Goade
w:^{h} comes to but just	35l:4s:02d
	10l:0s:00d

I am Sorry that Scarce once in a year I can recieve any Acco^{t} of the markett of ffurres or skins, by w:^{h} being in the darke, I have been a Considerable looser within this twelfe moneth; for the Erroe in the of Col^{d} plletting I shall keep them, since 'twill bee scarce worth while to send it to Capt Hall for the bed ticke you mention I have it not mine being barely 4l. as allso

Capt Randolphs w:^{h} is the Same wth mine, I must confesse I am now under great dissatisfaction about the damage in the Culpeper, Especially since by no indeavo^{rs} of mine I can learne how faire I am concern'd therein, & truely were not the year so untoward that few Shipes (& them with difficulty) will get their ladeing. I Could almost forever deny shipping one H^{de} on board her whilst I live, but Shall venture once more; I am under an unhappy disapointment for want of Severall things I sent for, Especially for the Bresse Wire, the Pattorn wherof, I put in the Letter wth my owne Hands; Servants at the rates you mention, at the latter Season of the year, Cannot bee worth while, others had much Cheaper & forward; Ships will bee generally very latter this year no Seasons, to Ship Tobo. & the planter who hath twice or thrice (it may bee) allready sold his Tobacco is in no Hast to Strip itt, Shall not trouble you farther at present but tak leave

I am Gen^{t}
Yo^{r} fr^{d} & Servt
W. B.

If you send ye Pinke to Barbadoes on our acco^{t} I would have by her 506 Negros between 12 & 24 years old about 1000 Gall'ns Rum 3024000 l. of Sug^{r} (muscovado) & abou 200 l. Ginger To P p Booth.

To Mr. North.

Virga. Xb^{r} the 29th 1684.

S^{r}

I lately wrote to you by way of Yorke, by w:^{h} I gave you a acco^{t} of my Coz Grendons death, & design'd to have sent you by this a Copy of his will &: but this ship Sailing Sooner then I expected & the Badnesse of the weather prevented mee, this I hope will come Safe to yor Hands by the Booth wth 40 Hds of Tobacco as P bill of Ladeing & invoice may appear, if Scarcity will ever make Tobo. a Commodity, it will bee this year, I am Sure it Scrace & dear enough, & wth worse generally very bad. m^{r} Grendons death hath put mee to Some trouble, that I can

Scarce give you any acco^{t} of ye Goods rec^{d}, onely one p^{r} lac'^{d} ruffles you sent mee, I suppose the lace had been tramp^{ed} in ye kennell before it was made (the Wrist Bands not being Soild), & are I fear not worth a farthing, so ye Saddle you Sent mee for my Selfe, I find the Stirrup of a Side Saddle w:^{h} I suppose was Sent instead of a Curb bitt, w:^{h} I find Wanting. You shall have it again P Bradly. You shall hear farther ere long, in the mean time accept of mine wth my wives best respects & Service to yor Selfe & Lady, m^{r} Coe & his & all the rest of our friends from

S^{r} Yo^{r} fri'd & Servt
W. B.

To m^{r} North P Booth.

To Perry and Lane.

Virga. ffeb'ny the 2^{d} 1684.

Gen^{t}

I wrote to you about a moneth eine P the Booth. Since w:^{h} I have not recd one letter from you, nor can hear any certainty of Winne or Tibbets, this (I hope) will come Safe to yor Hands by Capt Hall, w:^{h} 81 Hds of Tobacco. Wee have left her to yor discretion whether for London or Rotterdam.

There hath been now a good Season, most Tobacco is Strip'd & I'll assure you I never knew so little made in these parts in my life, nor I think So bad; I have inclosed Sent for the iron worke of a Saw Mill, w:^{h} I desire may bee Sent by the first Ship, & that the Cranke may bee made exactly according to ye inclosed patterne. If it is cast (without flaws) it may doe best; the Racke & Nutt must fitt; I am told it may bee best & cheapest had out of Holland, but I thinke wrought iron is prohibited, therefore must leave it to you, onely earnestly desire that great care may bee taken (in ye Cranke especially) that the iron worke bee well & Exactly according to ye dimensions inclosed, for I hope my timber worke will bee finished before ye End of 7 b^{e} next: Inclosed is allso a note for Some Indian Goods w:^{h} I allso desire by the first oppertunity. I had some complaints of my Duffeilds & Cottons this year, by my next I shall give you

a fuller acco^{t} my Clo: w'td Plains & Cottons very bad & indeed all the Cottons very dear, Dr Bullard Sent much better both Duffeilds & Cottons, w:^{h} are Sold as cheap as possibly I can afford mine. pray Speake to the Gun Smith that the Dogs of all the Gun locks have good Hold otherwise the Indians will not buy them; I shall not trouble you farther at present but with best respects & Service take leave

Gen^{t}

Yo^{r} friend & Servant

W. B.

To m^{r} Perry & Lane P Hall.

To M.

Virga. ffeb'ry 2^{d} 1684.

S^{r}

I wrote to you about 5 weeks since by the Booth by whom I sent you 40 H^{ds} of Tobo. w:^{h} I hope will long ere this come Safe to your Hands, have little now to adde, onely inclosed have Sent our Invoice for some Indian trade, & hope you will mend your Hand, the Duffeilds Herbert brought in much exceeds yo^{rs} the cloth cold plains you Sent is not So good by a groat a yard as some I had w:^{h} did not cost So much by 2½d. a yde, by Ruds Idesigne you Some Tobo. & other Goods & by him Shall Send my Invoice for what Goods I designe, but would willingly first See my Acco^{t} Pray give my best respects & Service where its due, & accept the Same yor Selfe from

S^{r}

Yo^{r} reall fr^{d} & Servt

W. B.

To M. P Hall.

Speake to ye Gunsmith that the Dogs of the Locks have good hold, otherwise the Indians will not buy them.

To His Brother and Sister Robinson.

Virga. Mo. March 1685 (4?).

Dear Bro: & Sister

Yo^{rs} of ye 29th of July came Safe to hand, though ye unhappy

Bearer dyed at Sea, I will assure you twas great Satisfaccon to mee to hear of your wellfare, & notwithstanding the distance of place nothing can bee more to my Content then to hear of the prosperity of my (So near) relations, therefore you will omitt no oppertunity to lett mee hear from you by letters, wth (Since heaven hath placed us at that distance) is the onely way wee have to communicate our thoughts, therefore hope I shall hear from you oftener, My little daughter Ursula comes herewith, to whom I shall not doubt your kindnesse, Pray give my kind love to our Sister Mary & all our friends, & Accept of mine wth my wives to your selves heartily wishing us a merry meeting in England I remain

Yo^{r} affectionate Bro
W. B.

To Bro: Robinson P Culpeper

Virga. 31st March 1684

Dear Sister

Yo^{rs} of ye 29th of July came to my Hands & was glad to hear from you, though Sorry to understand you were in So Sickly a Condition Pray God if it bee his blessed Will restore you to your former health w:^{h} would bee very wellcome news to mee. My poor Coz. Grendon dyed att Sea in Octob^{r} last, My wife & little daughters are well. One of y'm (Ursula) comes herewith pray God Send her a good Voyage. My wife gives you her kind love & Service, Pray give mine to all where its due, especially to my Sister Mary & accept ye Same yor selfe wth my prayers to God for your health & wellfare I remain

Dear Sister
Yo^{r} ever loveing Bro:
W. B.

To Sister Rich^{ds} P Culpeper.

To Thomas Byrd.

Virga. Ulto. March 1684.

Dear Bro:

Yo^{rs} of ye 7th of August came to my Hand, though my friend by whom twas Sent dyed att Sea; I am heartily glad to hear of your wellfare, & doubt not but you will So well improve yor

selfe that when you come to bee out of yor time, you will bee able to manage yor buisinesse to ye best advantage, wherein I shall bee ever ready to assist you. One of my little Daughters comes herewith. My wife desires to be remembered to you. Pray give my best respects to my Sister Mary & all where its due & accept the same yor selfe from

Yo^{r} affectionate Bro:
W. B.

To Bro: Tom P Culpeper

To His Brother Rand.

Virga March 31st 1685

Dear S^{r}

Yo^{rs} by Capt Dell came Safe to my Hands & was heartily wellcome, bringing us the good news of your Wellfare & my Sisters Safe delivery of a Son, of whom I wish you both much Joy. My wife & 2 Girls are I thanke God in health. Little Nutty comes herewith, if Shee calls on you by the way, I doubt not your kindnesse I should have been heartily glad to have Seen you in England this year, had not my affairs here (most of w:^{h} I am Sure bring more trouble then profit or pleasure) hindred mee, but it may not bee long first. My Coz Grendon (in ye flower of his Age) dyed ye 10 of 8 b^{r} last at Sea & the Old Woman (not indureing to lye alone) Marryed abt ye latter end of Jan'ry to one m^{r} Edwd Brain a Stranger here. My best respects & Service to yor selfe, Lady, Sister Dudly, m^{r} Knowles, wth all the rest of our friends in yor parts from

Dear S^{r}
Yo^{r} affectionate Bro: & Servt
W. B.

To Bro: Rand P Culpeper

To Daniel Horsmanden.

Virga. March ye 31st 1685

Dear Bro:

Yo^{rs} of ye 6th of July last come to my Hands, by w:^{h} was glad to hear of yor wellfare, for one letter a year is the most I have recd from you, therefore wonder you should blame mee in that who have allways doubled, & most commonly trebled y^{t} number. My wife & girls are in health, little Nutty comes herewith, God Send her well to you, & I shall not doubt your kindnesse to her. Poor Coz Grendon dyed at Sea in Octob^{r} last & ye old woman finding itt not convenient to bee alone hath marryed one m^{r} Edwd Brain (a Stranger) in Jan'ry last. Capt Randolph & m^{r} Banister, present their Service to you, whom wee allways remember when wee meet. Pray give my blessing to my Children when you See them, wth best respects & Service to all where its due, & accept ye Same yor selfe from

Dear Bro.

Yo^{r} affectionate Bro: & Servant

W. B.

To Bro: Dan'll P Culpeper

(To be Continued)